

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

By Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

Please note: This press release is adapted using information from the nonpartisan website ballotpedia.org. I have only used an excerpt of the article to align with most of my press releases, which are short informational items.

What does Proposal 1 do?

“The **Michigan Sales Tax Increase for Transportation Amendment, Proposal 1** is on the May 5, 2015 ballot as a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment. The measure, upon voter approval, would increase the state's sales and use tax from six percent to seven percent for the purpose of increasing transportation funding and would also do the following:^[1]

- Eliminate the sales and use tax on vehicle gasoline and diesel fuel after October 1, 2015.
- Dedicate 60 percent of the first 5 percent of the sales tax and an amount equal to 12.3 percent of the first 5 percent of the use tax to the School Aid Fund. Currently, 60 percent of the first 4 percent of the sales tax is earmarked for the fund.
- Provide for the School Aid Fund to be used exclusively for aid to "public community colleges, public career and technical education programs, scholarships for students attending either public community colleges or public career and technical education programs." This removes aid to public institutions of higher education as an allowable use for the fund.
- Dedicate 15 percent of the first 5 percent of the sales tax to be used for revenue sharing with townships, cities, and villages. Currently, 15 percent of the first 4 percent is earmarked for revenue sharing with local governments.
- Activate nine other statutes, including one increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 6 percent to 20 percent

What is the impact on schools?

The House Fiscal Agency estimated that the sales tax increase would generate more than \$1.6 billion per year, with \$1.2 billion going towards roads, \$130 million to mass transit, \$300 million to the school aid fund and \$95 million to local governments.^[2]

As your Charlotte Public School’s Superintendent, I am of course an advocate of initiatives that support public education students. I share this information at this time, two months in advance of the vote, to strongly encourage each of you to get more informed about Proposal 1.

The vote is on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Our school district and others across the state of Michigan would welcome the increased funding as we have had inconsistent and fluctuating state aid allowances per pupil for about the last 15 years. Further, having safer, better roads will spur economic development and hopefully attract more families to Michigan and specifically Charlotte.

--- Go Orioles / Oriole Pride!

References

•

[http://ballotpedia.org/Michigan Sales Tax Increase for Transportation Amendment, Proposal 1 %28May 2015%29 - cite_ref-1Michigan Legislature, "Legislative Analysis for HJR UU," accessed February 1, 2015](http://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_Sales_Tax_Increase_for_Transportation_Amendment,_Proposal_1_%28May_2015%29_-_cite_ref-1Michigan_Legislature,_%22Legislative_Analysis_for_HJR_UU,%22_accessed_February_1,_2015)

- [MLive, "Michigan lawmakers approve road funding deal, send tax proposal to statewide ballot," December 19, 2014](#)